

found out shortly before they embarked upon a nine-day trip to visit their two sons, in Oregon and California and, not wanting to spoil the vacation, stayed mum.

For all of Bobb's sensible stoicism, Teckla is his polar opposite, an emotional worrywart who sheds tears as readily as some people clear their throats. They met at Oregon State undergrads at a study table, conversing for 20 minutes in a group setting. "The next day," Teckla says, "he told someone he had met the woman he was going to marry." Together they've had more of a life together than most coaching couples, sharing a passion for history that has inspired vacations to places like Normandy and Russia as well as cruises on the Danube and the Baltic Sea.

In late January, McKittrick returned from his vacation and went back to work, figuring he'd break the news to Teckla that evening. Before he could, however, he received a frantic call from her: An oncologist's assistant had phoned the McKittrick house to confirm an appointment. "My wife was in tears for the next two weeks," Bobb says. "She hears cancer and immediately thinks, You're going to die. That's not the way I'm approaching it."

McKittrick's approach to life has never been orthodox. In seventh grade he added a third b to his first name because, he says, "I just wanted to be different." A high school valedictorian who was also a decorated student at Oregon State, McKittrick was persuaded by Tommy Prothro, his coach when he walked on as an offensive lineman for the Beavers, to return to his alma mater as an assistant after his three years of service in the Marines. McKittrick followed Prothro to UCLA, the Los Angeles Rams and then to the San Diego Chargers, where he and fellow assistant Walsh became friends. When Walsh was hired as 49ers coach in 1979, he asked McKittrick to come along.

McKittrick compares Walsh's recent return to the 49ers, who had been reeling from front-office turmoil, to Churchill's reign as Britain's prime minister during World War II. "He had been out of favor," McKittrick says, "but when the Nazis were threatening to overrun Europe, they turned to him for his dynamic leadership, and he held them together."

McKittrick is not only a voracious reader of nonfiction but also a genealogy freak who serves as an unofficial historian for his hometown. He also keeps a meticulous journal designed to "give my [two] grandkids an idea of what my life was like." According to his good friend, Loring De Martini, McKittrick's life is easy to describe: "Bobb is almost a saint. He's a guy who has never willfully done a wrong thing."

Not everyone would nominate him for sainthood. Drawing on some of the blocking methods he learned from Prothro, McKittrick recruited relatively small, agile linemen and taught them techniques—the cut block, the reverse-shoulder block, the chop—most of which were legal, at least when executed perfectly, but which infuriated opponents. After a 1985 game, Los Angeles Raiders defensive lineman Howie Long charged after McKittrick in a tunnel at the L.A. Coliseum and vented; the two haven't spoken since. In his book *Dark Side of the Game*, former Falcons defensive lineman Tim Green referred to McKittrick as Dr. Mean. McKittrick notes that in recent years, at least a third of the teams in the NFL have adopted his controversial techniques. "Those big, tough guys on defense want to play our strength against their strength," he says. "I'd rather play our strength against their weakness."

McKittrick's supporters far outnumber his detractors. Holmgren, 49ers coach Steve

Mariucci and Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan credit him with helping them assimilate Walsh's concepts, and Raiders coach Jon Gruden, who began his NFL career breaking down film for McKittrick in 1990, refers to McKittrick as "my idol, the best coach I've ever been around." Shanahan says McKittrick, with whom he worked for three seasons as a San Francisco assistant, "has forgotten more football than I know, but what really stands out is his incredible work ethic. He leaves no stone unturned, and that's why everybody considers him the best in the business."

Alas, McKittrick's prowess as a coach is not at the forefront of his friends' minds. Call someone looking for a quote, and instead of answers you get questions: How's Bobb? Is he going to get his liver? The answers are unclear, but things could be better. The chemotherapy has sapped McKittrick, and last weekend he was hospitalized with a 104[degree] temperature. He has another worry. In mid-March, Teckla was rushed to Stanford's emergency room with what doctors feared was a heart attack. It turned out to be a problem with her gallbladder, which is scheduled to be removed in early May. The doctors would like Bobb to finish fighting the cancer before replacing his liver, but he's one of many on a waiting list, and the timing is largely out of their control.

Recently McKittrick was at Stanford shuttling between appointments when a team of physicians tracked him down. They ushered him and Teckla into a room and informed them that a liver had become available. The chief transplant surgeon, Carlos Esquivel, then explained the various risks, including the possibility that Bobb could die on the operating table. The doctors said they needed a decision within two hours. Teckla broke into tears. Bobb stroked her hand, calmly questioned the doctors and finally said, "Let's do it."

He was told to return to the hospital later that afternoon for surgery. Teckla worried that he had rushed his decision, but Bobb said, "I made a life-altering decision 40 years ago in 20 minutes, and I haven't regretted it." He was sitting in the living room of his house when the phone rang. A nurse told him the doctors had found the liver to be unsuitable. When he repeated the news, Teckla's knees buckled and she fainted. Bobb took the news in stride.

"He has incredibly tough skin," Barton says of his coach. "It's a crisis situation, but he won't show a weakness."

Barton lets his thought hang for a moment; it occurs that he might want to say a Jewish prayer right about now. "Believe me," Barton says, "I will." He won't be alone.

"When it comes to emotional strength, he's probably the toughest person I know," Seifert says of his former assistant.

"Teckla was in tears for two weeks," says Bobb. "She hears cancer and immediately thinks, You're going to die. That's not the way I'm approaching it."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2000, I was unable to be in Washington and, consequently, missed two votes.

Had I been present. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 56 and rollcall No. 57.

HONORING THE 12TH ANNUAL FRIENDS FOR LIFE BANQUET FOR THE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER IN ROME, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rome, Georgia. On March 23, 2000, at the Friends for Life Banquet, the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rome, Georgia will be honored for the work it does in the community to save the lives of unborn children.

Currently, in Washington, DC, we are working in the Judiciary Committee, as well as on the House Floor, to ban the heinous practice of partial-birth abortion and take other steps to protect the unborn. However, what we do in the Congress, even if we had a President who shared our regard for the unborn, can only address the symptoms of a societal problem that results in so many abortions each year. The real, long term solutions have to come from our communities. The Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rome, Georgia fills this vital role in aiding and assisting pregnant women so that neither the mother nor the child fall victim to abortion.

The Center has a direct and positive impact on many constituents here in Georgia's 7th district as well as citizens throughout North Georgia, and I would like today to pause and commend Rome's Crisis Pregnancy Center for all the hard work and dedication it provides to so many women and families in time of need, day in and day out. They truly are doing our Lord's work.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF "A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION"

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, A Prairie Home Companion is more than just a good radio program. It's a good radio program that has been around for twenty-five years. When it debuted on July 6, 1974, before a live audience of twelve at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, no one would have suspected that twenty-five years later it would delight a national weekly radio audience of 2.8 million listeners, and many thousands of international fans across the globe from Edinburgh to Tokyo.

Over the past quarter century, A Prairie Home Companion has broadcast over 2,600 hours of programming, and has toured to forty-four of the fifty states. Close to one million people have attended live broadcasts. It's now heard on more than 470 public radio stations from coast to coast. The program, with origins in the American Midwest, has made a successful leap overseas. In 1985, Minnesota Public Radio started sending reel-to-reel tapes of the shows to Australia and Sweden. In